

145: BLOOD FOR BLOOD

SKYBOUND



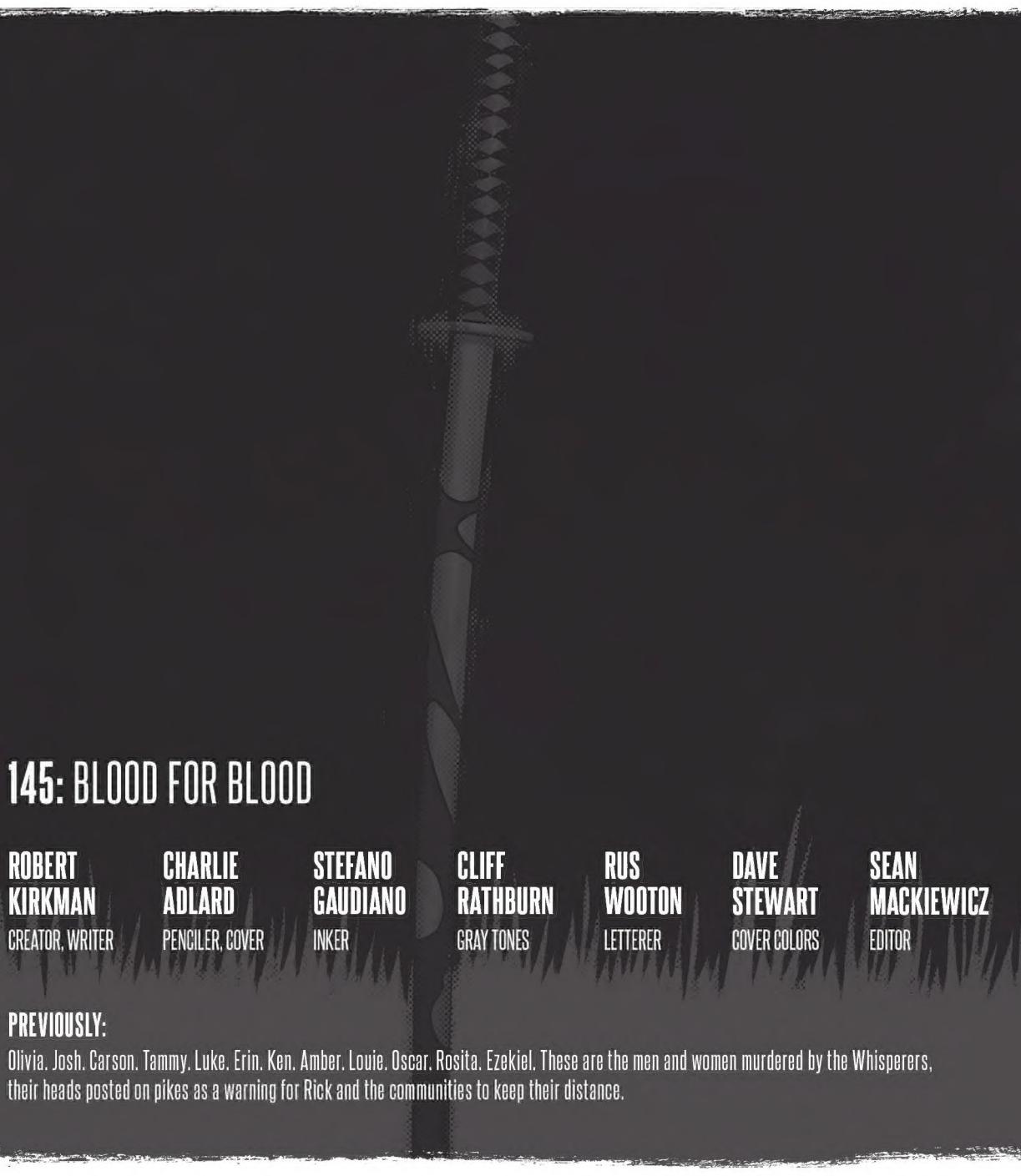
THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD



145: BLOOD FOR BLOOD

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COVER COLORS

SEAN
MACKIEWICZ
EDITOR

PREVIOUSLY:

Olivia. Josh. Carson. Tammy. Luke. Erin. Ken. Amber. Louie. Oscar. Rosita. Ezekiel. These are the men and women murdered by the Whisperers, their heads posted on pikes as a warning for Rick and the communities to keep their distance.

SKYBOUND

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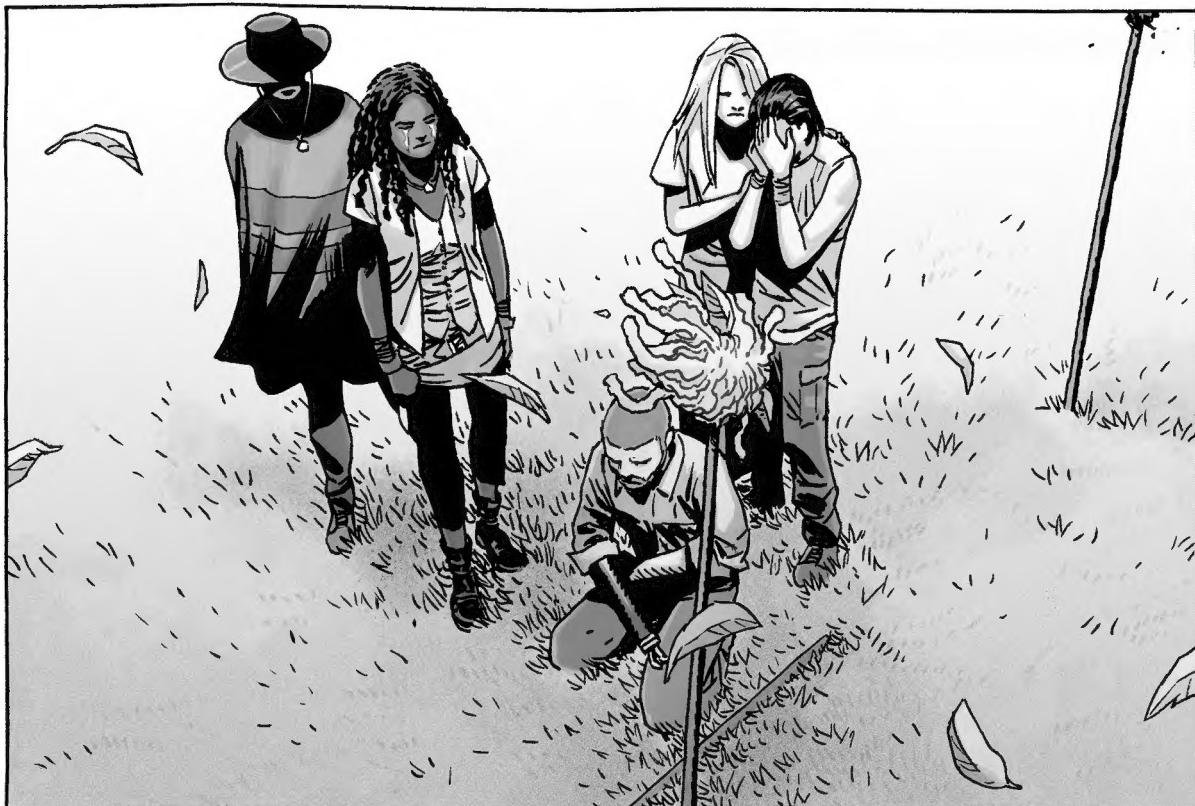
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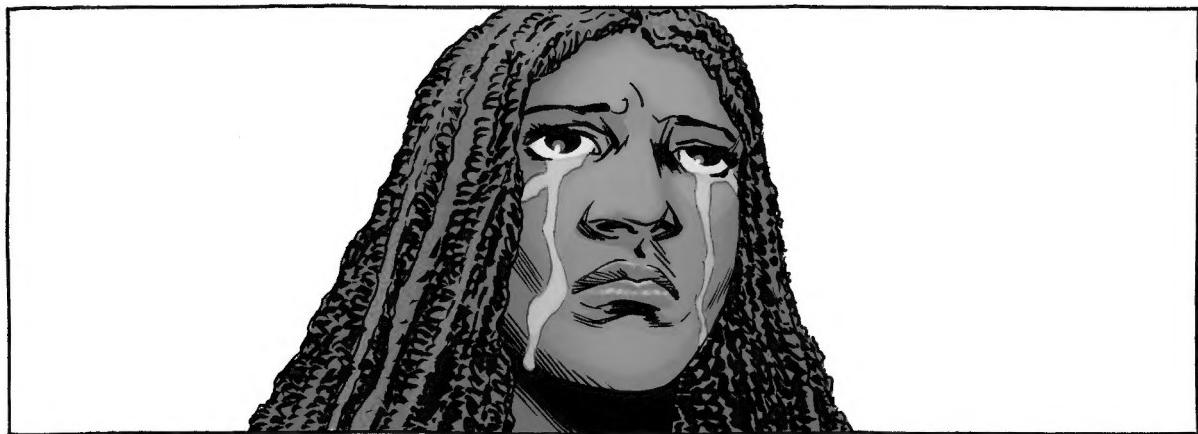


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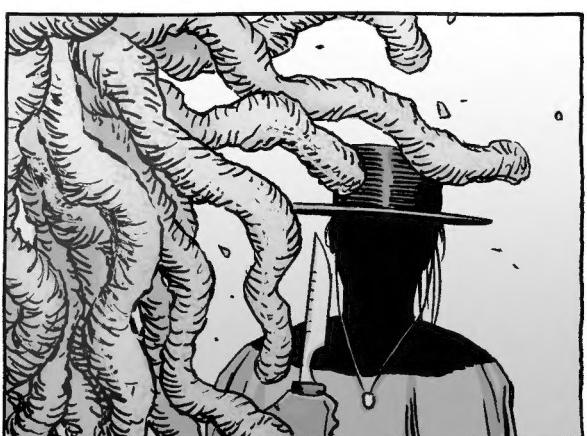
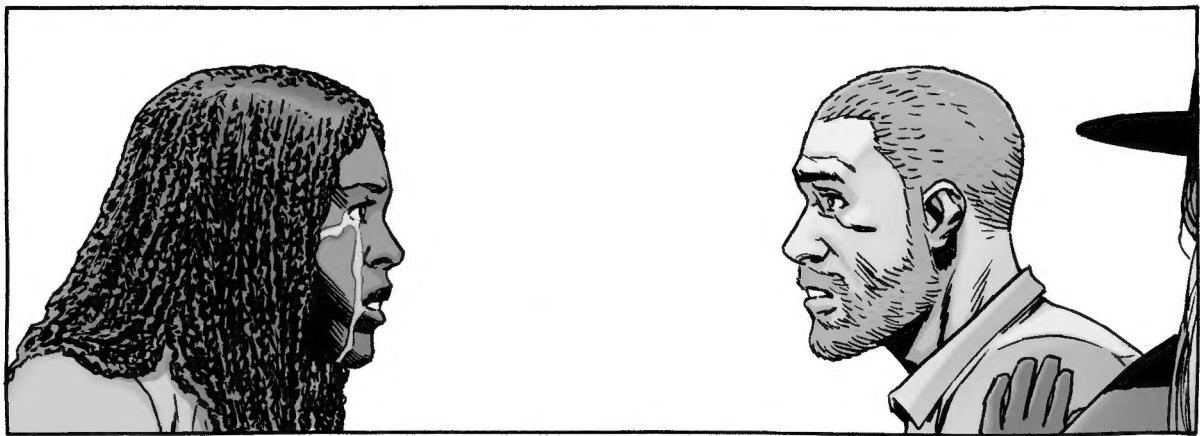
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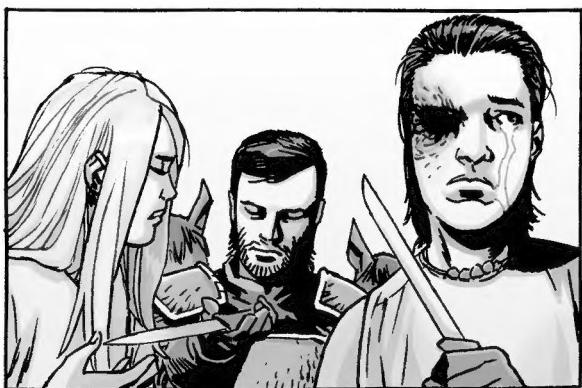
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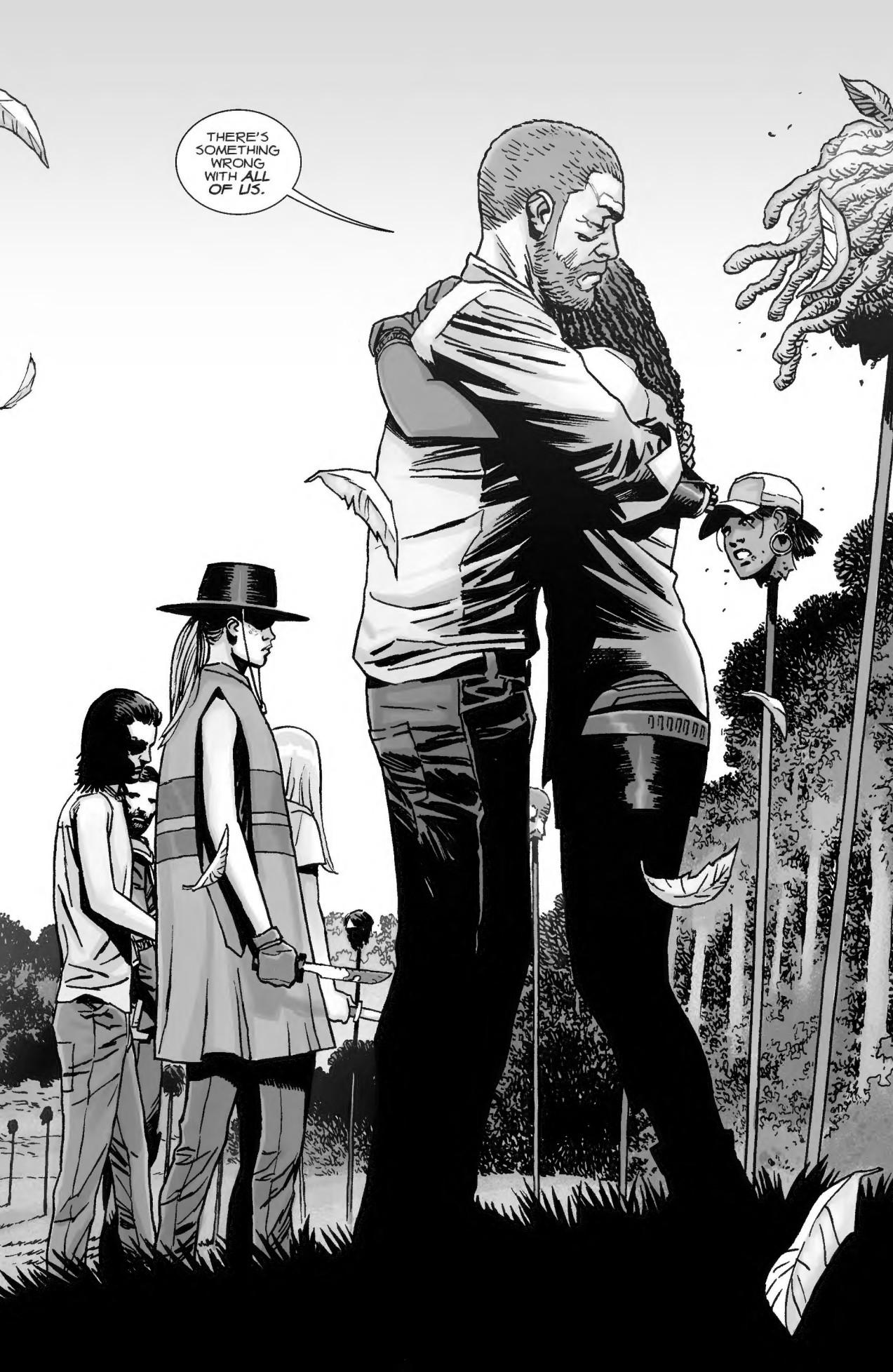




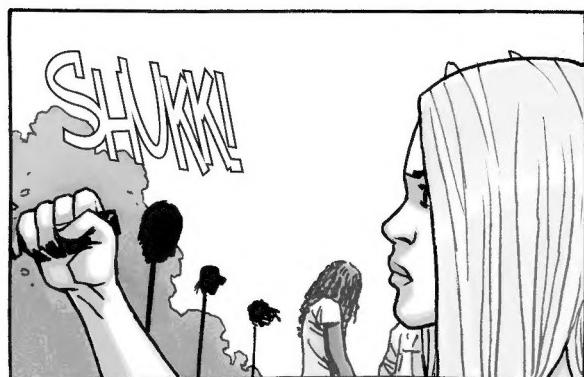
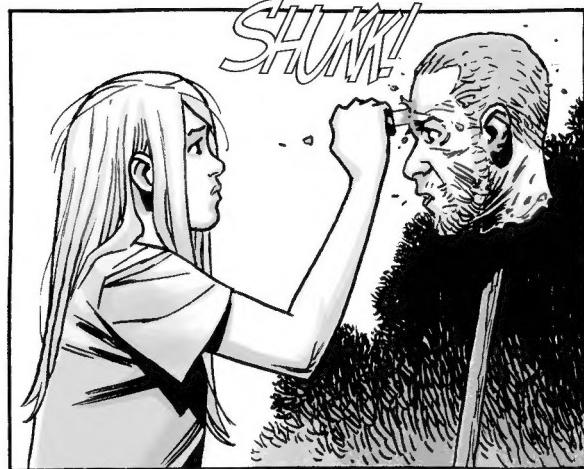


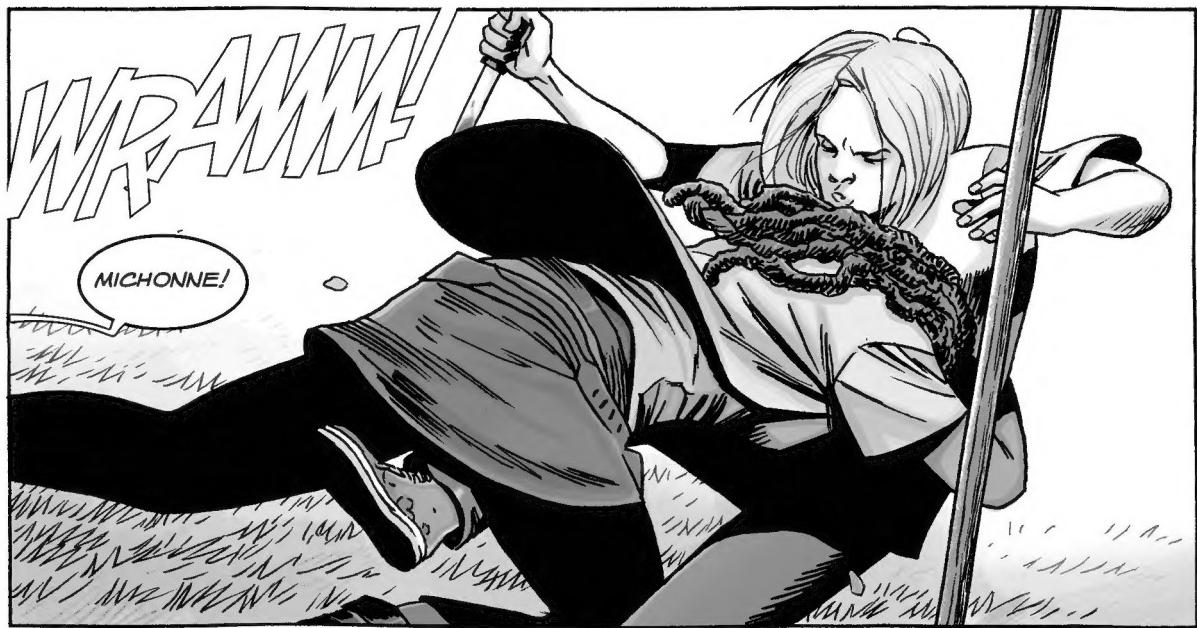






THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH ALL
OF US.











BUT WE
LEAVE THE
POLES
EXACTLY
WHERE THEY
ARE.



SHE KILLED OUR PEOPLE.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.



SHE KILLED TWELVE
PEOPLE. PEOPLE WE
KNEW, PEOPLE
WE LOVED.

BUT THERE'S
A LOT MORE AT
STAKE HERE AND
WE STILL DON'T
KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

DOING SOMETHING
RECKLESS, THAT
ENDANGERS US ALL...
THAT'S SOMETHING WE
DEFINITELY CAN'T DO.

BULLSHIT.

IF IT
WERE CARL
OR ANDREA'S
HEAD ON THOSE
SPIKES... YOU'D
BE LEADING US
TO WAR.

MAYBE.

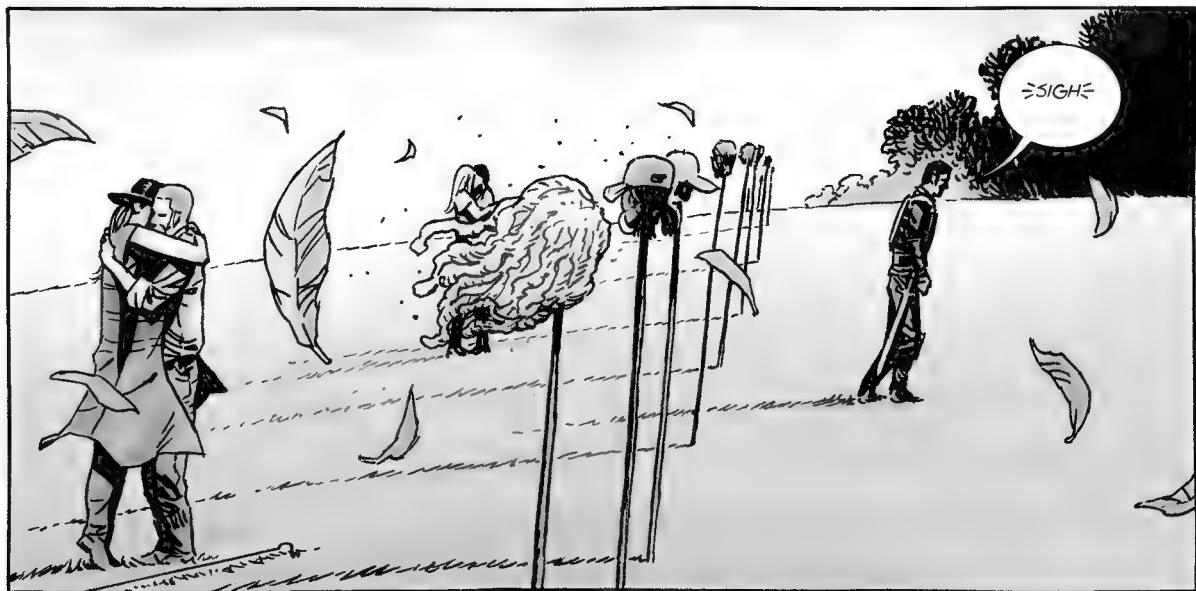
YOU'RE
PROBABLY
RIGHT.
OKAY?

SO I'M
ASKING YOU
TO BE
STRONGER
THAN I
COULD BE.

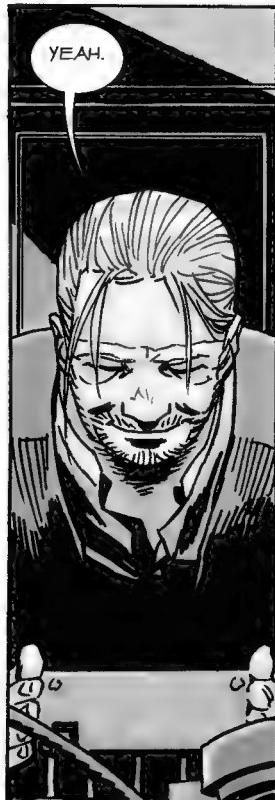














THIS IS NOT
HOW THINGS WERE
SUPPOSED TO GO.
TODAY WE SHOULD
BE CELEBRATING
THE FIRST DAY OF
A SUCCESSFUL FAIR.

IT IS
REMARKABLE
WHAT WE HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED
HERE. THAT WE
ARE ALL
TOGETHER...
THAT WE ARE
THRIVING...

...BUT AS
YOU KNOW,
TWELVE OF
OUR PEOPLE
WENT
MISSING.



I'M
AFRAID
I HAVE
TERRIBLE
NEWS...

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

It was great to see so many of you at Comic Con. It seems like last issue really blew your minds. Now this issue serves as half epilogue on last issue's traumatic events, and half prologue on the very bad, no good shit to come.

Well said, Sean.

Oh my God! Please say that wasn't Ezekiel's blood on Alpha's machete. We learnt that he was on a romantic and maybe spontaneous quest to seek Michonne's supposedly unrequited love and may have learnt that she was going with Rick to find Carl. But please don't say he confronted Alpha on his journey and her journey back to her clan. He's not a confrontational character but if this eventuality transpires in future issues I'll cry. I think him and Michonne (and Jesus) are currently the 'kill and I will riot' characters so please confirm that my theories are incorrect!

Thanks to Robert Kirkman and everyone at Skybound,

Avid reader, Lucy

Sorry to say that yes, that probably was Ezekiel's blood on there, as well as some others. I don't know if we'll get clarification on who exactly killed who... or if Alpha killed all of them... but yeah, you nailed it. However, I don't think he was being confrontational, just the victim of circumstance.

Dear Captain Kirkman and crew,

I'm an aspiring comicbook artist (@tdkjace on instagram for plug's sake) so I wanna start by saying how good Charlie's art is in these books. I don't see enough people acknowledging him in these letter hacks so I thought I'd give him some love here. I mean, your writing is good and all Kirkman, but I think Charlie is the star of these books.

Okay... fine... I see how it is.

Anyways, here's a bunch of questions I've been collecting:

Are we going to see another time skip? I mean, with things becoming more civilized and all, I'd imagine timeskips are going to needed to stop us from reading 10+ issues just about building more houses.

I don't think you'll be seeing much about building houses going forward. And was there really THAT much about building houses to begin with? I want to know more about that bread, though!

I think things will be plenty interesting for a long while without another time jump.

At the start of the time skip, Rick tells Magna that there's one lifer (Negan) and one guy in for a few weeks. So who's this other guy? What did he do? I demand answers.

The other guy was only in for something minor, I.E. not a lifer. We'll eventually find out who he was and see more about how punishment works in Alexandria. Stay tuned.

What's the relationship that the Saviors have with the rest of the communities? Do the rest of the communities look down on them? It doesn't seem like they exactly have their act together since it looks like their only export is timber and their leader wants to step down.

They're a valued part of the network of communities. We'll be seeing more of what's going on at the Sanctuary very soon.

Finally, how much of the books are hand drawn? The borders of the panels look hand drawn, but the black and grays look solid enough to be digital, so is there any switch off from handwritten to digital when Charlie sends the sketches off to the inker?

Charlie pencils everything on boards, and inks the panel borders to maintain the uneven, irregular style he's used since coming on the book. Then he scans all the pages and uploads them for Stefano. Stefano prints the pages out in blue line, then inks them on the boards. After that, he scans them, cleans up the files digitally, and sends them off to Cliff, who tones the pages digitally.

Anyways, thanks for making these books and reading my letter. My only request is that you never kill off Carl, he's easily the coolest character in the books (and I'll be waiting patiently for him to lose his eye in the show).

(ps, if something... unfortunate... ever happens to Charlie, let me know cause I promise I'll work for free)

Jace C

Orlando, Florida

Wait... the letter that started off by saying Charlie was the star of the book ends with you saying you could replace him if he dies?! Brass balls, man. Brass balls. "That quarterback is the lynchpin of the team... but if he gets injured... I'll step up!"

Hi Mr. Kirkman,

Here is an Italian TWD reader writing. I got almost all the Italian issues of the book but some weeks ago I incidentally stumbled upon some pages of the original version. I got hooked by the dialogues which believe me, lost half of the "meat" (no pun intended) in translation. Language generates consciousness and it is a vector of feelings. Sometimes feelings just do not pop up even if they are driven by a unique concept when this latter happens to be conveyed in a different language.

The book is about how people react in a post-apocalyptic scenario which ultimately brings to rebuilding civilisation. The path has been very clear: from the short community camping out of Atlanta

waiting for the National Guard to the 4-community trade network, the book marked all the intermediate steps you can expect (prison= self-defence – Woodbury= I want to get what you have) in an usual process of modernization.

When Rome was built, it initially was a small rural city essentially looking after its few inhabitants. After some skirmish with closer populations (read Albans for instance and the legend of Horatii and Curiatii), they started realizing that alliances are the key to survival (1st example: the Etruscans) and eventually Rome became the Roman Empire.

As well as oldest civilisation chose rivers as a starting point to building around, our "heroes" are choosing big cities which, like rivers, are not suitable for living in (well, at least no longer) but yet represent an invaluable source of resources.

That having been said, here is the question. Washington represented the very first "big attractor" having 4 major communities, which ended up to be allied after some "skirmishes", orbit around. Are you envisaging, as a potential future development of the storyline, that the Washington-orbiting communities will cross the path of, say, the Baltimore-orbiting communities (potentially organized in a similar way)?

Bottom line: is the TWD world becoming even larger and Rick going to meet his Etruscans?

All I'll say is that Eugene is fixing a radio.

To close, I am really missing a 100% genuine Italian character lasting as many issues as he/her needs to go patrolling for supplies, find a spaghetti-full closet in an abandoned house and prepare one of the best post-apocalyptic bolognasse ever for the Hilltop get-together dinner. Then, you can have him/her eaten to death: I will not blame you of having a racist attitude when dealing with minorities!

Thanks for the book: keep the outstanding work up

Mauro

PS: yes the English is "a bit" crappy but... thanks for understanding

Your English is actually pretty great. Although, I can't believe you requested an Italian character that finds spaghetti... are you SURE you're not from the US?

Robert Kirkman,

I have no idea if I am doing this right haha. Anyways, I love your comics so much. I get treated like crap for being transgender and your comics are how I cope with being bullied. Your comics are my escape from reality and it keeps me going. I draw comics of me and Jesus killing zombies together. Man, I wish I was cool as him. Enough about me haha I have some questions about your amazing character Jesus (he's my favorite and he changed my life so thank you for creating him. I get that he's fictional but he means a lot to me. I can't imagine twd without him)

What's his back story? How'd he learn to be so dang awesome? I imagine he had military training and martial arts training as well. Did he have a boyfriend before the apocalypse? I like to imagine that he was married but obviously that would mean his husband got eaten by zombies and that sucks. Will you ever give Jesus a boyfriend? He deserves a total hunk that is bad ass like he is.

Jesus and Negan are by far the most requested backstories. We don't do flashbacks, but who knows what these

characters will reveal at the right time.

We'll eventually get around to revealing things about both characters. Sadly, there's just such a large cast there's only so many pages in an issue, so the rotation can get a bit tedious. I'm going to need to kill more characters, aren't I?

If you get this you're thinking "damn this kid is weird!" I love you Robert. Thanks for everything.

Claude from NJ

I don't, in any way, find wanting to know more about our characters weird. In fact... that's kind of the goal here. Y'know? I want people to always be clamoring for more. If you're not interested in finding out more about a character... I'm not servicing them properly. (Sorry, Gabriel.)

Sean and Robert,

I've loved the comic since day one, but let me get to the point.

First of all, what in the bloody hell is Alpha doing in there? Wait, stupid question, she's learning about their culture. Where will she go? Who will she talk to? And more importantly, WHAT will she do? Will she like what she see's and have her group and form a community? Or will she think they're pansies or whatever and keep moving? And what will she do with Carl? The suspense is already killing me!

Her being at the fair was mostly about assessing the level of threat the communities could serve. As for what she did? See last issue.

Second, they have boats, they have horses and carriages, so why the hell not have a small rail system? The first trains were basically horse carriages on rails, and they have plenty of wood and water for steam trains. Come on, Eugene has to have some plans for that. And before you ask where would they get the rails, the first rails were wood, so yeah. Just thinking.

That seems like a huge amount of work for limited return, especially considering the size of their communities right now.

The old railways are still there... for one. It's not like zombies destroyed them. There's probably even an old steam engine somewhere... so it'd be a repair job... not reinvention. But really... where would they GO? They have no reason to be traveling into the vast unknown around them... yet.

Third, after you're done with all the nomads (I mean, the big huge nomadic group), you need to have a small group of people roll in in a heavily customized (not like crazy post apocalyptic stereo type like) 18 wheeler, a few people bigger than Magna's group. And before you ask how would they power the truck, it would be an engine like in a deuce and a half, able to run on any flammable liquid, like methane made from animal poop (I mean, they did it in the third mad max movie, so why can't they?).

My question, and it's related to the railways, is how clear are any of the roadways? Are there people actively clearing them of cars, walkers, bodies and debris? I'd imagine it'd get very tiring stopping all the time to open up more road. Plus the sound of an 18 wheeler! You'd get everyone's attention pretty damn quickly, which isn't the best way to keep surviving.

Exactly.

Just some ideas for you to play with, so there (I would have mentioned planes, but it's not like they would have to travel that far, right?). Keep up the good work and at least respond to my letter if it doesn't end up in Letter Hacks.

Keep up the great work
Ian S. Olson

P.S. Why haven't I seen any dogs or cats? You'd think someone would have dog or a cat. Or a rabbit.

Folks gotta eat.

Hackers,

Seriously, FUCK Carl... "This world is my father?" You ungrateful punk ass.

I guess because I'm a father I able to see his idiotic love for Ms. Damaged Goods for what it is... Or the fact that I can smell crazy from a miles away... But Rick should have let him go... This can't end anywhere but heartbreak. Carl is choosing an obviously insane girl over his own blood?? I knew something was wrong with that kid. Time to cut him loose, let Rick and the Gang go live in peace while Carl gets his Skin-Fitted for Fun Time in Crazy Land. If Carl wants to go down the rabbit hole for the first cute piece that comes along, let him do it alone.

Sure, you might be able to consider her "damaged goods"... but she's also a victim, and the Grimes family has never been one to stand by while injustices are being perpetrated.

Yeah, I'd argue it's a little more complicated than what you're saying, Matthew. Rick is mature enough to know that Carl couldn't actually MEAN what he's saying. He's a teenager... and he's trying to get a point across, that no matter how much you tried to protect me, shit happened and it shaped me... and he's saying this in the most over the top way, as teenagers often do. Also, there's an element here that maybe Carl is mature enough to be saying that terrible thing to get Rick to leave him there... so he can protect Lydia.

Speaking of Lydia... no matter how crazy you think she is... as Sean says, she's in danger... seemingly constant danger. Carl is a hero for risking his life to help her.

So while on the surface he may SEEM like an ungrateful punk-ass... there's supposed to be a lot more going on there.

I know the bloody knife isn't Andrea or Michonne, it's obviously someone from the Fair that tried to maybe stop Alpha on the road.. Nice misdirection there by the way. It was definitely a "oh shit I have to take a break before I turn THAT page" moment.

I've figured out the future of TWD for you. It's called "Oregon" - it's surrounded by mountains and rivers and streams, and we've only got a population of around 8-9 million (which SERIOUSLY cuts down on the amount of Roamers and Walkers out there, unless you count those bastard Zombies that keep moving up here from California).

What do you say, one last, LONG road trip for the promised land? It'd be like a Manifest Destiny/TWD crossover almost... You could run with it for years.

Anyway, fuck you guys very much for the next issue by the way... I just KNOW that it won't be Rick pushing Alpha off a roof and walking home in peace... If you bastards kill any of the REAL group because of Carl's Dick (and Kirkman's Bloodlust) I'm going to be ROYALLY pissed off.

Oh well, I guess Negan will have to step up.

- Matthew Toomb
Eugene, OR

I hope you weren't TOO pissed off. Also, I promise I'll never move from California to Oregon... I don't want to be one of THOSE guys.

Hellacious Walking Dead Team,

Where the fucking Fuck is Lucille!? She Better NOT have been destroyed. Especially for something lame like firewood! Hopefully, if Negan does ever reunite with her, I want him to raise that beautiful brain bashing bitch high in the sky like he just pulled merlins magic dick out of the fucking stone! On a lighter note, In 143, it brought a tear to my eye when Andrea refered to Carl as "Our Son". Who apparently doesnt give one whispering shit about that. But Im not worried, my prediction is Rick and his hotheadedness starts another war. This time with a prison ending moving our characters on to yet another locale. Beginning to feel like destroy, build, destroy. Im not mad though. I want to see how much damage this whispering horde can do. They ARE all whispers right and not zombies on the last page of 143?

Best Regards,
Dan from N.Y

No, those are mostly all walkers on the last page there (and first page of #144). There are Whisperers mixed in to help control the horde, probably mostly around the edges.

This "pattern" criticism does bug me at times. They lived in the prison... then they went to Alexandria... and there were stops along the way... but that was their journey. There was a clear progression to the locations they inhabited... and the stories told around those locations were completely different! And usually it's brought up in a predictive manner... like "Alexandria is going to get destroyed just like the prison, and then the story will be repetitive." Well... they haven't left Alexandria yet!

And if they ever do... it will be so we can tell completely different stories in a new and exciting location that provides big changes for the characters!

Soapbox rant... over. Thanks for reading everyone!

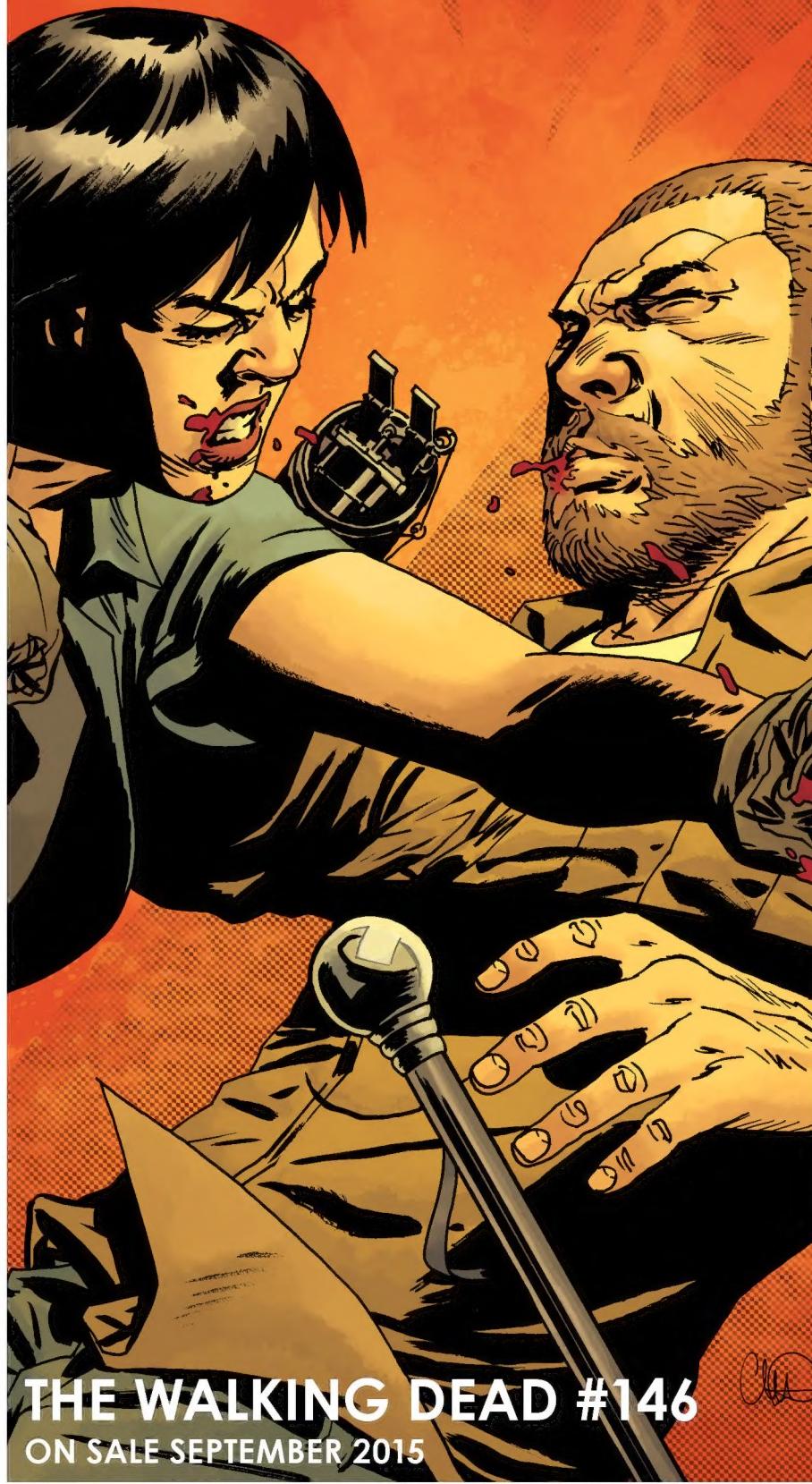
See you again next month. Where some punches are thrown.

-Sean Mackiewicz

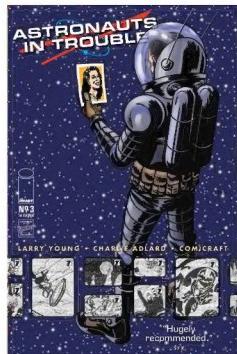
Oh, and those punches will be glorious!

-Robert Kirkman

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ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2015



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